



On 5 July, Transport Community Permanent Secretariat organised the **4th Ministerial Council** in Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia. The meeting, held under the auspices of the Slovenian Presidency of the European Union, gathered ministers of six Western Balkans partners, representatives of the European Commission and the EU Member States. Croatian Minister of Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure Mr Oleg Butkovic also attended the meeting, highlighting Croatia's essential role in the process of connecting the region with the EU. The main point on the agenda was the **endorsement of the Strategy for Sustainable and Smart Mobility for the Western Balkans** and strengthening of

cooperation on **cross border connectivity in the region and with the EU**. Transport Community's **Action Plan for Waterborne Transport and Multimodality** was also endorsed at the meeting. The Action Plan promotes multimodal transport solutions and modal a shift, through targeted policies, including investments in inland waterways and maritime ports. Participants also reviewed **progress on extension of Green Lanes** to the borders between the EU and the Western Balkans and highlight dedication to making roads in the region safer together with international partners. In a video address,



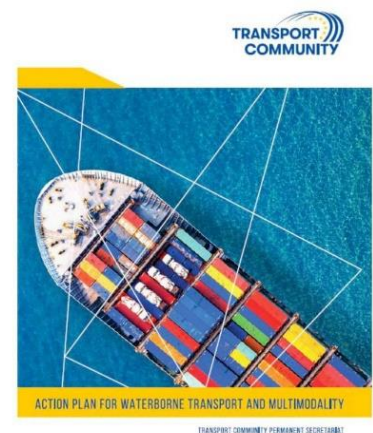
Mr Jean Todt, the United Nations Special Envoy for Road Safety, supported the **inauguration of the first phase of the Western Balkans Road Safety Observatory (WBRSO)**. As a concrete step to strengthen regional cooperation, ministers responsible for transport in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro signed an agreement on construction of bridge on River Tara including the connecting border sections, which will connect the Western Balkans region even better.



On 6 July, Slovenian Presidency of the European Union hosted a **ministerial meeting dedicated to cross-border connectivity between the EU and the Western Balkans**. The meeting, chaired by the Slovenian Minister of Infrastructure Jernej Vrtovec, focused on improving mobility and logistics in the Western Balkans, which will have a positive impact on the region’s economic development. Transport Community presented its report on implementation of the Green Lanes initiative, which was supported by ministers in attendance, including the Greek Minister of Infrastructure and Transport Mr Kostas Karamanlis.

Only three days after the inauguration of the road safety observatory, Transport Community held the first meeting with the partners during which road safety reports for WB6 were presented. WBRSO as a regional platform for information exchange and strategies (<https://www.transport-community.org/wbrso/>) will support Vision Zero – no more dead and seriously injured on the roads and railway crossings in the region. In addition to road safety, Transport Community efforts on establishing Green Lanes, were highlighted in **the conclusions of the Berlin Summit**. In addition to recognising the constructive role of partner organisations RCC and CEFTA, summit conclusions call for alignment of border agencies’ working hours and recognise the constructive role of Greece, which had expressed readiness to extend the Green Lanes initiative from its borders to the Western Balkans.

Following the endorsement at the Ministerial Council of the Waterborne and Multimodality Action Plan, activities were initiated to jumpstart its implementation. On 13 July, during a visit to Albania, Director Zakonjšek met with the Minister of Infrastructure and Energy Ms Belinda Balluku to discuss maritime safety and rail projects. A day later, Transport Community's initiatives were presented to the **International Maritime Organisation Secretary General Mr Kitack Lim**. During the meeting the role of regional ports Bar and Durrës was



highlighted, as essential nodes of transport network in Western Balkans. IOM Secretary General is invited to take part in the Transport Community initiative to mark the World Maritime Day on 30 September. On 2 July, Transport Community **Summer School dedicated to rail finished**. During five days, 25 young professionals from Western Balkans engaged in constructive debates on the future of rail in the region.